

## [Interview with Vito Cacciola #44]

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Interview

with

Vito Cacciola

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by

Merton R. Lovett

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“As well as remembered.”

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### INTERVIEW WITH VITO CACCIOLA

by Merton R. Lovett

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(from memory)

“Good morning, Mr. Claire. I hoba you are well and happy. Meeta the alderman, Mr. Claire, Mr. Lovett.

“So you knowa Mr. Claire also. He is de neighbor. Is the Aldermen going to spenda more money and maka de taxes higher? Or do they plana some day to sava money?

“I know you would wisha to be economical. Why then does expenses of running de city climba?

“You say it is because everybody isa selfish. They wanta many things that cost money. I think most peoples would like to cuta de taxes. I myself always preacha economy.

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"Did I signa de petition, to build de new playground for Ward three? Of course I signa. It will giva great benefits to de children, who must now play in de streets.

"Why does you laugh?

"My, my. You is right. It would costa de city much money, but it is most necessary.

"So everybody want to spenda money for something. I do not believe de city is justified in buying land for new parking place.

"Whata de matter? Does you seea anything with joke, Mr. Lovett?

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"What you saya, Mr. Claire? I does not wisha more parking place because I do not owna de auto? By gracious, there is too many automobiles. They keepa people in poverty and weara out de streets.

"Repeata that, Mr. Claire, Repeata.

"So, peoples wanta somebody else to maka de economize. When de Aldermen try to sava money some peoples get their goes stepp-ed upon. By jingo, you hava gota something there. Whata you think, Mr. Lovett?

"Gooda bye, Mr. Claire, coma again.

"Did you know, Mr. Lovett, that Mr. Claire was de son-by-de-law of Mr. Kransburg? They maka money. They sella much furniture.

"Yes, de Jews is smarta. Also they helpa each other. De Christians, they cuta your throat for business. De cobblers, they eata each other lika canibals. To keepa my customers, I musta watcha like eagle.

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"Did you know, Mr. Lovett, that some of de cobblers playa de tricks most evil? They do not respecta de truth.

"I will giva to you example. De cobbler steala my customers with lies.

"You know, I usa de leather called 'Rock Oak' to maka soles? It is de best. It weara longest. It costa most. See, de leather hava de name stamp-ed on it, lika this.

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"That cobbler, DiMala, he meeta my customers at de club. He saya to them, 'Does your feet hurta? If you do not watcha out, de 'Rock Oak' soles, what Vito uses, will causa corns and maka you lame.'

"Yes, Mr. Lovett, that scampa saya that and more. He tella my customers that my soles is so hard that they is dangerous to feet. He saya, 'Vito uses de soles hard like rocks.' He aska them, 'Is it good to wear soles lika rocks?'

"Believe you me, those lies foola some people.

"Oh, my, de soles what he uses are not so hard. They are soft like piece of tripe. They weara out quick. They costa little."

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"That man, what just leaves, worka on W.P.A. also.

"No, I should not feel disgrac-ed if, because of misfortune, I must worka for W.P.A.

"I tella you what I think. De President of de United States, he is lika a father to all de peoples. He is your father. He is my father. We are his children. It is righta and good for de father to helpa his children. God is de father of all de world. Mr. Roosevelt is de father of

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the United States. We pray to God and He helps us. When we are distressed and starved, why should not the President help us also?"

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"No, I do not belong to the Italian Community Club. No longer am I a member of any lodge.

"I tell you. Once I belonged, but from my disassociation I gained nothing. The members have low ideals. They play cards. They get drunk. They debase themselves. There is nothing in the club which has appeal to the hearts of good men. There is nothing which can inspire an intelligent man.

"Also, the people at the club show me hostility. They do not understand a man who thinks for himself. Because I disagree sometimes with politicians, they call me fool. Because I use reason about my religion, they name me heathen."

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